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LP News

The Party of Principle™

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LP Chair Nicholas Sarwark showcases LP on C-SPAN

Kudos rolled in after C-SPAN featured LP national Chair Nicholas Sarwark on April 12. The 45-minute live interview was simulcast in the United Kingdom on the BBC Parliament channel.

"Nick produced a grand-slam, out-of-the-ballpark home run," said Brian Irving, LP North Carolina state chair.

"Great job as always being the chief ambassador of the LP to the captive masses yearning to hear the gospel of liberty," said a BBC viewer in the U.K.

LP chair C-SPAN interview highlights

"Libertarianism actually benefits people. Take any issue. Marijuana legalization stops criminalizing and locking up a generation of African-American



men, removing them from society so they are unable to get economic opportunity. It allows law enforcement to focus on protecting families from violent crime rather than [on marijuana users] for what

they choose to do in the privacy of their home."

"We follow a philosophy similar to the traditional teachings of Christianity.

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Libertarian Mark Fish appointed to Alaska Commission

In April, the Alaska state legislature confirmed Mark Fish, who was the 2014 Libertarian for U.S. Senate, to be on the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC), the group that regulates campaign finance and public reporting required of officials and lobbyists.

The Libertarian Party won two seats on the commission due to the outcome of the governor's race in 2014 in which Libertarians Carolyn "Care" Clift and her lieutenant governor running mate Andrew C. Lee received 3.2 percent of the vote.

Alaska law designates that the five-member APOC consist of two members from each of the two parties that win the most votes in the last race for governor.

An independent ticket won the race, with the Republicans coming in second and the Libertarians coming in third. Be-

cause independents are not considered to be a party, the Republicans and Libertarians each qualified their parties for two seats on the commission.

A campaign switcheroo two months before the election cost the Democrats their seats on APOC.

After trailing in polls, the Democratic nominee teamed up with former Republican mayor Bill Walker to run as independents for lieutenant governor and governor, respectively. The Democratic Party endorsed the independent ticket, which won, but this left the party without any votes for governor. As a result, Libertarians will replace two Democratic commissioners on APOC.

"We would not have achieved [this] if we had not fought so hard," said Clift.

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Mark Fish

CHAIR'S CORNER

LP fights for all your freedoms, all the time

by Nicholas Sarwark, Chair

As I sit down to write this column, it's just after April 15, the day the government takes our taxes. For the average American, that's only nine days before they get to start working for themselves and stop working for the government. The income earned from Jan. 1 through April 24 goes to pay the tax bill; it's the other eight months of your income that you get to keep. Only the Libertarian Party is committed to actually cutting the size and scope of government to push that day back. The old parties will talk about how terrible it is, but when the time comes for voting, they do nothing — or vote for the opposite.

That's a good thing to remember as we move into the presidential campaign season and candidates from those parties announce their runs for president. Libertarian voters are multiplying, and old-party politicians are desperate to sound more libertarian to get libertarian votes. This is an opportunity for us to grow the Libertarian Party.

As I travel the country speaking at Libertarian Party state conventions and doing news interviews, I've found that the best response to old-party politicians using libertarian rhetoric is to praise them for talking about libertarian ideas or taking a policy position that moves in a libertarian direction, then telling people how the Libertarian Party would go further.

If, for example, an old-party politician introduces a bill that would reduce the length of sentences for people convicted of federal drug crimes, that deserves our praise. Far too many young lives are destroyed and



Nicholas Sarwark

derailed because of the racist war on drugs. However, the federal government has no business deciding what people put into their own bodies — and the Libertarian Party would end the entire War on Drugs, making our communities safer by redirecting law enforcement to fight violent crime. Applaud the old-party politicians' baby steps toward freedom, but be completely clear that only Libertarian Party politicians will fight for all of your freedoms, all of the time.

When you are in a conversation like that with someone who is not a Libertarian yet, or someone who thinks that their favorite old-party politician is great, be nice. Not everyone gets to libertarianism right away, and if all they remember about the Libertarian Party is that the last person they talked to from that party was a jerk who criticized their beliefs, they'll never get there. If you love chocolate, I can't argue my way into making you prefer vanilla. I'm more likely to succeed by saying, "It's cool that you love chocolate. I'm more of a vanilla person myself, would you like a taste?"

As we get into the summer festival season, I hope you'll go out and show people who Libertarians are:

People who care deeply about their families, their communities, and their country.

People who want to build a world where everyone has the freedom to pursue their own happiness as long as they don't hurt anyone or take their stuff.

People who know that the only way to increase human freedom is to reduce government control.

People like them.

Yours in liberty,

The following individual was a Beacon of Liberty contributor:

Pamela E. Potter

The following individual was a Pioneer of Freedom contributor:

Brian R. Schnell

The following individuals were Lifetime Founder contributors:

Jon Hurtley

Ken Mikeman

Victoria Saucier

The Libertarian Party grants lifetime membership to individuals who contribute at least \$1,500 during any 12-month period. Call 202-333-0008 to find out how much more you would need to donate to become a Lifetime Member today.

David F. Nolan Memorial Office Fund donors, Jan. 23–April 15

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Plaques are now on display at the Libertarian National Committee office space in Alexandria, Va., that recognize our top donors. To have your name appear on a plaque, or if you'd just like to help pay off the mortgage (the LNC has a goal of paying off at least \$60,000 of the principal in 2015), mail in your donation or visit LP.org.

Contribute today: LP.org/office-fund

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LP News

The Purposes of the Libertarian Party:

The party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and supporting party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

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Three Libertarians elected to Crystal City Council

'Liberty' Minnesotans hold 5-seat majority

When Libertarians Elizabeth Dahl and Olga Parsons each won their election in November 2014 to the city council in Crystal City, Minnesota, a majority of libertarian-leaning members was formed.

The seven-member council consists of the mayor, a representative from each of four city wards, and one from each of two sections. Dahl was elected in Ward 1 and Parsons in Section 2. Libertarian Casey Peak was elected in Ward 3 in 2012.

Two other council members are liberty-minded: incumbent mayor Jim Adams and Ward 2 Representative Jeff Kolb, who was elected in November 2014.

"We have a really amazing team on the committee," said Parsons.

After Peak was elected, he saw that he needed to get more libertarian-minded members on the council in order to get



Elizabeth Dahl



Olga Parsons



Casey Peak

things done. So he formed a group to recruit candidates, which landed Dahl, Parsons and Kolb. The three campaigned together and shared contact information, greatly enhancing their prospects for election.

The five are aligned in their goals to cut city spending and bureaucracy and to expand transparency and responsiveness to citizens. They work closely together, already raising awareness in the town and getting results.

They defeated a \$13 million bond for

a public works facility in February, which Adams and Peak had been fighting on the previous council. The city has "more than enough cash" according to Dahl to pay for the facility while leaving a sizable reserve for emergencies.

Their opponents claimed that the bond was needed to mitigate "generational inequity," arguing that since future taxpayers will benefit from the facility, they should have to pay for it.

"A well-managed city should not

"A well-managed city should not need bonds for capital projects. Nor should it sock future taxpayers with spending they didn't vote for. ... After all, former taxpayers paid for the roads and facilities we use today."

— Casey Peak, Crystal City Council

need bonds for capital projects," countered Peak. "Nor should it sock future taxpayers with spending they didn't vote for. They have every right to benefit from investments we make. After all, former taxpayers paid for the roads and facilities we use today."

Dahl noted that just as people often want to upgrade their homes to keep up with the neighbors, city spending advo-

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LP signs up 317 new members at International Students for Liberty Conference

Libertarian Party backpacks, T-shirts, hats, and literature could be seen in hallways and auditoriums throughout the International Students For Liberty Conference (ISFLC) held in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 13–15, 2015, where more than 1,700 students from around the world gathered to learn and share their love of liberty in a rich offering of workshops, speeches, panel discussions, and social events.

In all, 317 attendees took advantage of a promotion to join the LP for one year for free at the party's prominent booth on the main floor, arranged by Libertarian National Committee (LNC) Executive Director Wes Benedict.

"Many thanks to everyone who donated to pay for this event," he said.

The LP hosted two breakout sessions at the conference. Benedict was joined by LNC Vice Chair Arvin Vohra and LNC Political Director Carla Howell to present "How Libertarians Go On the Offensive." LNC member Dr. James Lark presented a workshop titled "The Teachings of Chairman Jim: The 'Nuts and Bolts' of Building a Libertarian Organization on Campus." He also addressed



Libertarians John Buckley, Bob Johnston, Arvin Vohra, Carla Howell, Pranav Badhwar, and Wes Benedict man the LP booth at ISFLC.

the European Students For Liberty Conference in Berlin, Germany, in April.

LP volunteers John Buckley, Pranav Badhwar, Bridget Ulrich, Chris Brookover, Andy Bakker, Jeff Carson, and Robert Sarvis, along with Vohra, Lark, and LNC

staff members Bob Johnston, Benedict, and Howell, worked the booth. Staff members Robert Kraus and Casey Hansen helped to assemble the booth.

"Every staff member and volunteer that I observed and encountered was professional and helpful, and the offers made seemed to really have sparked an interest among the students I spoke with at the conference," said LNC member Brett Bittner, who attended the event. Lark shared his sentiments, calling the party's presence "an excellent outreach effort."

ISFLC attracts students from around the world with strong libertarian leanings and a desire for real change.

"I was especially inspired to hear the auditorium full of students cheer when Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico, called for an end to marijuana prohibition," Benedict said.

"The overwhelming majority of them are bright, talented, and energetic, as well as being very nice," Lark noted.

"Many of them will make great Libertarian candidates some day," Vohra added.

LP Chair Sarwark on C-SPAN

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As individuals, we are responsible for helping others. That is the best way to help fellow citizens. Whenever you filter something through ... government ... taking money from you, giving it to a bureaucracy, and creating rules and hoops and hurdles to give the money back to [a] poor person in your community, that is much less effective than Libertarian solutions ... like the pastor in Florida who just goes to the park and feeds the homeless. He got arrested for doing that. Libertarians stood with him."

"Problems are much better solved by people who care than by people [for] whom it is just a job."

"When I fly and ... get patted down by a TSA agent, I do not feel that is an important government service that I need — to have someone run his hands up and down my legs and pat me down in a ridiculous security theater. That does not make us safer. [The TSA] has never caught a terrorist."

"Some people say ... 'Who will build the roads?' The same people who build them now. They are built by hard-working construction workers under a contract."

"Americans are hurting because health care costs too much money. If you look at something like laser eye sur-

gery, where it is not generally covered by health insurance and where there is a market, the cost has gone down. This is a delicate procedure with lasers shooting into your eyes. That is what letting people work together to find solutions can do."

"We need to take a long, hard look at what we think is important enough in America to make criminal. ... If what you're doing doesn't hurt anyone else, it doesn't take their stuff, then that is no business of the criminal law. The first step ... is ending the racist War on Drugs [so] you no longer have these marijuana stops. You no longer have people afraid to be pulled over for a broken tail light. ... You don't have as many of these tragedies. ... That is what Libertarian Party ... candidates across the country are running for and will be running for in 2016."

"We oppose foreign wars of adventure, like the last two Iraq wars. ... We believe in self-defense. We don't believe in going overseas to look for enemies to destroy and bringing back all of these wounded and severely traumatized veterans ... when there is no threat to our country."

Regarding Rand Paul: "I sincerely hope that he does well in seeking his party's nomination. ... But if you want an entire party committed to freedom, if you believe people should pursue happiness in the way that they want as long as they don't hurt anybody else, then the Libertarian

Party is the party for you."

In response to a caller's questions about Libertarians' call for replacing environmental regulations with lawsuits: "If you can't trust the company who has a profit motive, who doesn't want to anger their customers, who wants to ... do things that will get them more business long-term, how can you trust a former CEO of that company heading up a division of bureaucrats to actually regulate his friends? I understand the caller's point and the concern, but our concern is that that solution just doesn't work ... in practice. So let's try something else."

In response to a caller's question, "If we vote for you ... what happens when you don't make it? Then were does that vote go?": "That is a good question, and I really do hope you will support Libertarian candidates in your next election. ... I'm committed that the Libertarian Party is here to stay. ... We are not going anywhere. ... If you want to have a better life because limited government leads to unlimited individuals, then Libertarian candidates will stand up and represent you election after election until we win."

When asked if he has any personal desire to seek office, Nicholas Sarwark responded, "I have no personal desire right now as the chair. But I may. If I feel that that is what is necessary to make my community better, and ... to really spread the message."

3 Libertarians elected

...continued from page 3

cates — usually government employees but also some constituents — compare Crystal City to other cities.

"There's a lot of worrying the city won't be up to snuff," said Dahl. "But we can't forget: taxpayers are footing the bill."

Dahl ran against 20-year incumbent councilman Mark Hoffman, who had said that the city can "tax anytime [they] want to, for any reason [they] want to, [they] can tax and cover [their] butts."

Voters apparently rejected his view, giving Dahl 67 percent of the vote.

Casey Peak's priority is getting the city government off people's backs.

"There are way too many city rules and laws that prevent people from earning income, starting a business, and living as they see fit," he said. Dahl notes that citizens have been trying to reduce the volume of regulations for years, unsuccessfully.

Peak said that some regulations even cite international building codes, specifying, for example, how homeowners must put up a wall in their own house.

Another ordinance mandates that citizens must eradicate certain weeds on their property, including violets, which Peak notes are native to the area and which some citizens like to plant.

"The council is taking a hatchet to overregulation. They're putting together a task force to go through all of the city code and eliminate anything that is 'none of government's business.'"

"The city's regulations comprise 35,000 lines of code — more than there are residents in this town," said Dahl.

The council is taking a hatchet to overregulation. They're putting together a task force to go through all of the city code and eliminate anything that is "none of government's business."

In another victory, Adams and Peak succeeded in eliminating language from city law last year that restricts firearms on public building premises.

Crystal City had maintained a ban on guns in public buildings in violation of a state ruling. Adams and Peak brought the law into compliance and got notices of the gun ban taken down from City Hall. It's now legal to carry.

"The law was not only harmful to rights of the people, since City Hall is their building, but was also contrary to state

law," said Peak.

Fulfilling their promise of responsiveness to citizens' concerns, Kolb, Dahl, and Parsons created the Citizen Connection Initiative, which promises Crystal City citizens that council members will respond to issues and concerns they raise within 48 hours. It also includes a Facebook page and website, where the three post highlights of city council meetings and keep citizens abreast of major issues.

A major challenge for the council is to tackle what Dahl calls "insidious assessments" — hidden taxes that are included in property tax bills.

"While most citizens assume their entire bill is for the city's property tax, about 70 percent of it is assessed by various jurisdictions and quasi-government agencies such as school districts, county government, fire districts, and watershed districts," said Peak. "The list of taxing entities goes on and on."

Council members intend to educate citizens to be more aware of the taxes they pay.

"If we can get that moving, we'll have a lot more credibility to make other moves in the future," said Dahl. "There are lots of options for cutting taxes and spending."

The group is also fighting eminent domain. Federal law gives railroad companies the authority to demand that private

property owners sell their property. Canadian Pacific and BNSF railroad companies are now exploiting this power in their attempt to put a new line through the middle of town.

Council members are holding public forums packed with attendees to raise awareness of the situation. They have teamed with County Commissioner Mike Opat to fight it. The county, which has the funds to fight the railroad in court, is buying land from owners before the railroad can, in order to serve as plaintiff.

Crystal City is a suburb of Minneapolis with a population of 23,000, including many young families who moved from other locations.

During her campaign last year, Dahl, a mother of three young children, knocked on all 2,300 doors in her ward.

Parson's sector is twice as big, which she also managed to canvass in its entirety — both before and again after the primary — as the mother of two children. She spent an average of three hours every day for four months.

"I had the support of my family and strong backing in the community, which made my election possible," said Parsons.

Council members online:

- dahlward1.com
- olgaparsons.com
- FB.com/CaseyPeakForCrystalCityCouncil

30th anniversary for the Advocates; Sharon Harris retires as president after 20 years

The Advocates for Self-Government, longtime ally of the Libertarian Party, is celebrating two big anniversaries this year: the organization's thirtieth anniversary and Sharon Harris's twentieth anniversary as Advocates' president. Harris retired from her position in April.

Harris is a long-time LP activist, co-founder of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, and the recipient of the Libertarian Party's Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine awards.

The Advocates is well-known among Libertarian Party members for outreach tools like the World's Smallest Political Quiz and OPH (Operation Politically Homeless), and for its acclaimed libertarian communication training.

The Quiz, created by Advocates founder Marshall Fritz based on a concept by Libertarian Party co-founder David Nolan, has long been the most popular outreach tool in the libertarian movement. The Quiz presents a far more complete political map than the old left-versus-right line (which excludes libertarians), and lets Quiz takers place themselves on that map by answering ten questions on current issues.

"The Quiz is arguably the most effective tool for libertarian understanding and outreach ever created," says Harris. "Millions of people have been exposed to libertarian ideas by the Quiz. It has changed the way Americans view the political landscape."

The phenomenal success of the Quiz is no accident, Harris says.

"From the beginning, Marshall Fritz insisted that the Quiz be not just fast and fun, but above all honest and accurate — giving reliable and useful insights to all who take it," she says. "We've always been careful to stay true to that vision."

The result: a tool so accurate that even non-libertarian educators, journalists and others can — and do — use it and recommend it:

- The online version of the Quiz has been taken an incredible 22 million-plus times — and that number grows by tens of thousands each month.
- The Quiz has been featured in some of America's bestselling college and high school textbooks or their supplementary material. Further, the Advocates has supplied educators, at their request, with over 40,000 Quiz cards for their classrooms. "Today, thousands of college and high school students study the



Sharon Harris

Quiz — and thus libertarianism," Harris says. "This is a huge breakthrough for the liberty movement."

- The Quiz has been printed and discussed in dozens of newspapers and magazines — including the *Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, and *Atlanta Constitution* — and many popular and scholarly books.
- The Advocates has also distributed over 12 million Quiz cards, the original form of the Quiz. "These fit easily in pockets and purses and are wonderful for outreach," Harris says.
- Libertarian Party members have frequently incorporated the Quiz into outreach literature and campaign materials. Harris cites the LP's "Quiz Across America" door hanger campaign as one excellent example of this.

"The Quiz quickly lets people see there's a consistently pro-freedom alternative to the stale 'conservative versus liberal' debate," she says. "People never view the world of politics the same after taking the Quiz."

OPH, Communication, Books, and More

The Quiz forms the basis for another acclaimed outreach tool, Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) — a highly effective way to discover and recruit libertarian-leaning people at public events. It's been used for decades by Libertarian Party chapters. In recent years the Advocates has given — free of charge — more than a thousand OPH kits to campus libertarian organizations, helping foster the growth of

libertarianism among tomorrow's leaders and voters.

The Advocates is also famous for teaching libertarians the best ways to persuade others to accept the ideas of liberty. Sharon Harris has taught innumerable libertarian communication classes and seminars for Libertarian Party groups and other prominent organizations in almost every state in America. Last year alone she spoke on successful communication to over 1,000 libertarians. She consistently receives rave reviews for her seminars. Her recent book, *How To Be A Super Communicator for Liberty*, presents a selection of some of her best thinking on this, from her twenty years of studying and teaching.

The Advocates publishes one of the most popular libertarian publications on the planet, the *Liberator Online* email newsletter. Each issue shares new communication techniques from Harris and libertarian communication pioneers (and Libertarian Party veterans) Michael Cloud and Mary Ruwart. Four books from these authors have come from material that first appeared in the *Liberator Online*. The non-partisan *Liberator Online* also regularly covers LP news and announcements.

"I'm extremely proud of our communication work," says Harris. "I truly believe it has revolutionized the way libertarians present our ideas to the public. We've helped tens of thousands of libertarians become far more persuasive and effective in their outreach. And that has helped build our movement and win others to our side."

Libertarian Party Roots

Like previous Advocates presidents Marshall Fritz and Carole Ann Rand, Sharon Harris has strong connections with

the Libertarian Party and a long history of LP activism. She was a co-founder of the Libertarian Party of Georgia in 1972. She ran as a Libertarian for Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture in 1994, winning over 300,000 votes. She managed several LP political campaigns, including the historic 1988 statewide campaigns that won the Libertarian Party of Georgia the ballot status it holds today. She has served the LP at the local, state and national level in many other ways.

The Libertarian Party has recognized Harris's work with two of its highest awards. In 2012, she was honored with the Libertarian Party's Thomas Jefferson Award, "presented to the Libertarian Party member whose achievements merit our recognition of outstanding leadership, high character, and dedication to the principles and goals of the Party." In 2014 she received the LP's Thomas Paine Award for "outstanding communication of libertarian ideas, principles, and values."

"Receiving these two awards, from an organization I so deeply respect, is undoubtedly the greatest honor I have received in my professional life," she says.

Ms. Harris retired from the Advocates in order to focus more on the activities she enjoys most: speaking and writing about effective ways to communicate the ideas of liberty and leading Libertarian communications workshops. Brett Bittner, LNC member and former executive director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, who had been working with the Advocates since April 2014, was chosen as new Advocates executive director.

The Advocates will be celebrating these two special anniversaries at an informal anniversary and retirement party in Atlanta.

Nolan Memorial Headquarters One-Year Anniversary Reception

The Libertarian National Committee will host a reception to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the party's David F. Nolan Memorial Building headquarters.

The opening reception last year was a hit! You won't want to miss this if you're in the area.

Contributions to pay off the mortgage of the party's headquarters will be requested.

Co-sponsored by the LP of Northern Virginia.

Alexandria, Virginia
Saturday, July 18
7:00–10:00 p.m.

1444 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Two blocks from King
Street metro stop
(blue and yellow lines)

Parking is available
behind the building.

LP campaigns are rewarding; need more volunteers, says survey

Here are some highlights from a survey issued just after New Year's, in which 264 Libertarian candidates who ran for federal, state, and local office in 2014 responded.

More than 90 percent of the respondents indicated that they needed **more volunteers** than they had. (*For members who don't wish to be a candidate or want training for a possible future campaign, the pressing need for more volunteers is an opportunity to learn and make a difference.*)

66 out of 133 candidates said they **plan to run for office again**; another 31 said they probably or **maybe will run** again. 108 out of 116 indicated they intend to stay politically active in other ways.

73 percent of candidates noticed that **voters were more receptive** than in the past to their campaigns and to Libertarian solutions.

The **issue that resonated most with voters** was **small government/less government/cutting spending**. The second-most cited issue was legalizing / decriminalizing **marijuana**.

Asked what if anything the candidates **would have done differently**, the most common responses were that they would have **started earlier** and **raised more money**.

31 out of 119 candidates said they had **unrealistic expectations** of what their vote total would be.

The average candidate was featured in 2-3 print articles, interviewed on 2-3 radio shows, and in 1-2 TV news reports. 25 were featured in national media.

Polls were published for 48 of their campaigns. Libertarians were included in

approximately two-thirds of them.

Libertarians were included in 40 percent of televised debates and 72 percent of radio debates.

35 percent of candidates reported being accused of being a "spoiler."

150 candidates reported that they distributed a total of 23,408 yard signs, 14,635 bumper stickers, and 1,015,533 brochures or other printed materials.

133 Libertarians campaigns visited a total of over 142,087 households.

184 candidates reported raising \$1,252,480 (average \$6,807) for their campaigns.

When asked, "What was the **most gratifying aspect** of your campaign?" responses included:

- My issues are now being talked about in the Senate.
- Breaking some people's thinking out of the mainstream media box.
- Hearing how fed up people were with how government operates.
- Young people on campus getting it.
- Tremendously positive response from community leaders.
- Support from neighborhood groups that are not generally libertarian.
- People viewing me as the candidate who made the most sense.
- Messages, emails and phone calls from ordinary people supporting my campaign.
- Facing my worst fear (TV debate) and not messing up too much.
- Causing sitting senators to change their answers considerably.
- That people had a *choice* (it was going to

be an uncontested race).

- Doing everything I can to advance Liberty for all.
- The courage I gained by approaching random people.
- Speaking the truth always.
- Being asked to run again.
- Getting my name out for '16.

Some answered "What was the **most memorable moment** of your campaign?" as follows:

- When a homeless lady gave me a dollar for my campaign.
- Going on stage in the first state debate in front of 2,000 people.
- 50-year-olds who voted for me — the first time they voted in their lives.
- Wiping the floor with one supposedly small-government Republican candidate at a forum.
- Getting sworn in.
- Staying up till 2 a.m. making signs and drinking with friends ... the 2 a.m. drunken signs were not presentable.
- Realizing that I had received more votes than the difference between [the Democrat and Republican].
- People along a parade route being excited to see a Libertarian candidate.
- Letter from voter thanking me for running.
- Friends calling me up out of the blue to tell me they voted for me.
- Someone saying that I was an inspiration for generations to come.
- When the incumbent argued with me openly at a public forum. What an idiot.
- Got favorable press from *Seattle Times*.
- Election night, when they announced we

had more than 6 percent of the total vote.

- Receiving a radio host's endorsement.
- Getting the Senate lead upset when I made it clear he didn't know how much single-payer would cost.
- Major newspaper chain editorializing that my libertarian ideas were significant and valuable.
- My opponents telling me I need to host a radio show.
- Speaking to a crowd of 1,100 with my daughters.
- Too many great times to mention.

When asked, "What are you **most proud of** about your campaign?" responses included:

- Zero compromising on principles.
- Changed some of the [public political] conversation.
- Kept message based on issues rather than personal attacks on my opponent.
- Position statements that make our campaign proud!
- Honest. Fair. Every statement was proved by data.
- I was the most informed, prepared and qualified to hold office.
- Shed light on what Liberty is in a 95 percent Republican district.
- Introduced three counties of voters to Libertarians.
- Reached over 1.2 million Texans.
- Voters who broke from the century-old two-party system.
- Won support of the veteran community.
- More positive media and more endorsements than in my previous two campaigns.

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Legal team, plaintiffs announced for presidential debate lawsuit

By Joe Hunter

The 2012 presidential and vice-presidential nominees of both the Libertarian and Green parties are joining forces to challenge the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) and its use of selection criteria that limit participation in general election presidential debates to the Republican and Democratic nominees.

The Our America Initiative, headed by 2012 Libertarian presidential nominee Gov. Gary Johnson, is coordinating the legal challenge. The plaintiffs will be represented by Rocky Anderson, former Salt Lake City mayor and 2012 Justice Party presidential nominee; and by Bruce Fein, a nationally known constitutional lawyer who served as Associate Deputy Attorney General and

General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission under President Reagan.

Our America Initiative is holding briefings around the country to increase awareness of the lawsuit and raise money for its filing.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit will include Johnson, 2012 Libertarian vice-presidential nominee Judge Jim Gray (Ret.), the 2012 Green Party nominees, the candidates' campaign organizations, and both the Libertarian and Green national parties.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said in a statement, "The CPD, formed and controlled solely by the two major parties, allows voters to hear and see only the candidates of the Republican and Democratic Parties. It is a fraudulent cartel compromising the lifeblood of our democracy."

Bruce Fein, who served as general counsel to the FCC under President Reagan, is representing plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the CPD. Photo by Gage Skidmore.



Candidates Caillault and Hetrick running for NJ Assembly

By Patrick McKnight

Damien Caillault and Jeff Hetrick have been nominated by the New Jersey Libertarian Party to run for State Assembly in the 27th District. The 27th District is a traditional Democratic stronghold in northern New Jersey.

Their economic platform includes reducing economic regulations that discourage new business creation, slashing property and state income taxes, and transitioning New Jersey's chronically insolvent public pension system to a 401k.

Regarding civil liberties, Caillault and Hetrick oppose the failed war on drugs and advocate the immediate decriminalization of marijuana. They also support reforming the broken public education system by encouraging charter schools. They feel that only by encouraging choice and competition can we create true accountability in education.



Damien Caillault

ance, education, family and work ethic," Caillault explained. "When given the choice between slavery and freedom, my grandparents joined the resistance; once France was liberated, my grandfathers joined the French army and went on

Damien Caillault was born and raised in France, where he experienced firsthand the destructive backwardness of a planned economy. In the United States he works in the financial services industry. Jeff Hetrick ran as a Libertarian for Chatham Town Council in 2014.

"I come from a middle-class family and grew up surrounded with the values of love, tolerance, education, family and work ethic," Caillault explained. "When given the choice between slavery and freedom, my grandparents joined the resistance; once France was liberated, my grandfathers joined the French army and went on

to fight Nazi Germany on the western front.

"Entitlement does not make people happy, it makes them indefinitely dissatisfied and jealous, afraid to lose what they have without being truly appreciative of it. A society is doomed when a generation is more concerned about keeping what they have than it is to sacrifice for their children to live better lives.

"Let's keep our country free and fair and full of opportunities instead of defending our own privileges. Here lies the difference between a Libertarian and a Democrat or Republican."

The New Jersey Libertarian Party is confident that Caillault and Hetrick will help build the momentum that has made it the third-largest and fastest-growing party in the state. Registered New Jersey Libertarians grew by 8.3 percent in 2014 while registered Republicans shrank by 1.2 percent and registered Democrats shrank by 1.6 percent.

For more information on these and other excellent candidates from New Jersey, visit NJLP.org.

Carl Loser for Virginia Senate

At just 24 years old, Carl Loser is the chairman and founder of the Libertarian Party of Powhatan County and the Metro Richmond Membership Coordinator for LP Virginia. He has more than doubled libertarian membership in the county.

"There are two laws I'll work to repeal immediately if elected," quipped Carl R. Loser, who Virginia Libertarians nominated to run for state Senate in District

10. "One is the failed Drug Prohibition in Virginia. The other is the law that allows Republicans to pick the last name of their Libertarian opponents."

In addition to his senate campaign, he's managing two local campaigns for board of supervisors in 2014.

He drew nine mentions in local media in the first three months of his campaign.

Loser's campaign focuses on three of his passions: creating economic opportunity, ending prohibition, and enforcing equal treatment under the law. He describes his approach as socially accepting and fiscally responsible, which he encapsulates in his slogan, "Live and Let Live."



Libertarian Carl Loser for Va. Senate (right) and his campaign manager, Corey Fauconier.

His campaign manager, Corey Fauconier, is helping him reach the black community to show that Libertarians represent the people more than the two old parties.

"We're attracting all types of people and creating awareness," Loser said. "We are trying a different type of campaigning which will involve unconventional fundraising ideas and futuristic marketing schemes."

He previously ran for clerk of circuit court in Powhatan and was campaign manager for Libertarian Bo Brown for U.S. Congress in Virginia District 4 in 2014.

• Campaign website: loser4liberty.com

Andy Bakker for Virginia delegate

Andy Bakker is an Alexandria, Va.-based activist running for the 46th District House of Delegates seat. A key member of the Jeffrey Carson for Congress campaign in 2014, he seeks to build on the momentum created by that and other recent Virginia Libertarian campaigns, notably those of Robert Sarvis, who ran for U.S. senate in 2014 and for governor in 2012.

Bakker will advocate the legalization of marijuana in Virginia, a personal issue for him as a user of medical cannabis for the past five years after a neck injury left him in chronic pain.

Virginia is the last jurisdiction in the Washington, DC metropolitan area without marijuana law reform. The District of Columbia legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2014, and the state of Maryland decriminalized possession this year.

"Virginia is primed for this message," he said.

The 46th District seat has been uncontested in general elections since 2009 and is currently held by Democratic Minority Whip Charniele Herring, who opposes decriminalization.

"Charniele Herring is dedicated to failed prohibitionist policies designed



Andy Bakker

to curb drug use," said Bakker. "Recent polling shows that Virginians no longer support this approach."

Bakker is the only candidate running in the 46th District who has pledged to eliminate the Virginia state income tax, which currently stands at 5 percent. He also calls for eliminating the state's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Like Carl Loser, Andy Bakker is 24 years old and one of the youngest candidates running for state-level office on any party ticket in the state. His campaign is focused on reaching young people, with the goal of building the Libertarian Party base among millennials (people who reached voting age after 2000).

• Campaign website: andybakker.com

THE 2014 LIBERTARIAN PARTY ANNUAL REPORT



Dear fellow Libertarian,

Thanks to the support of thousands of Libertarian donors, candidates, and volunteers, 2014 was a great year for the Libertarian Party. We broke records for votes, voter registrations, and ballot access. At the same time, party revenue and membership levels are adequate but need to improve.

Ten of our U.S. Senate candidates got record-high percentages for Libertarian U.S. Senate candidates in their states.

More than 12.5 million votes were cast for Libertarian candidates. According to *Ballot Access News*, our candidates got more top-of-ticket votes than any other alternative party running in a midterm election in the last 100 years.

A stunning number of Libertarians were included in polls and in national press for a midterm election.

Also, we maintained ballot access in 30 states, which is the best result after a midterm election for any alternative party in history!

One more piece of good news: over the course of 2014 (from March to October), Libertarian voter registration increased 8.3 percent. Our latest count is 399,302 registered Libertarians throughout America.

Party finances

The year was marked by two major events: we purchased a headquarters building, and we were notified of an approximately \$250,000 bequest. (A recently deceased member had named the LP in his will in 2011.)

Total revenue for the year was \$1,605,137, a significant increase over recent years. Based on unaudited financial statements, our revenue for 2014 increased 24 percent from 2013, mostly from the bequest.

We cut back on our staffing, but hope to add more staff in 2015.

We implemented two major projects and a new membership plan.

continued on page 9...

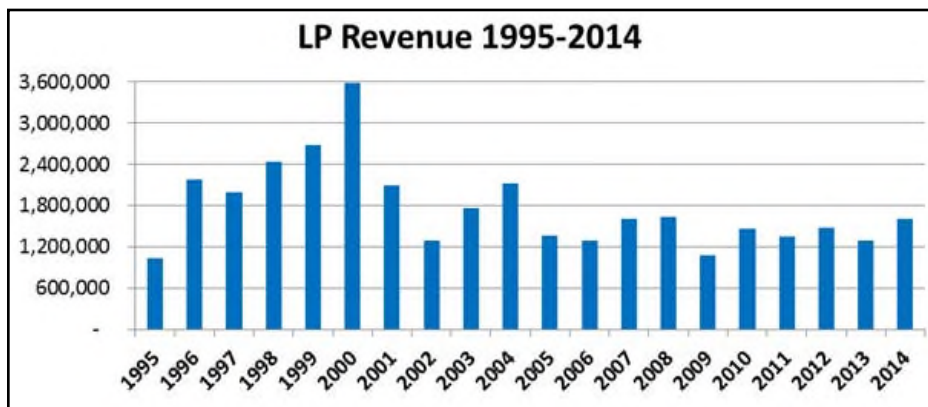
Note: Financial reports have limitations when it comes to showing how funds are actually spent. The category "Affiliate Support," for example, represents funding for Libertarian state affiliates. If the LP gives cash to an affiliate, that shows up on the "Affiliate Support" line. However, if the LP hires staff to help the affiliates, their salary falls under "Compensation" even if they spend all of their time supporting affiliates. Similarly, our staff spends a large amount of time on candidate support, most of which also gets lumped into the "Compensation" category.

2010 – 2014 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Assets	421,811	454,149	290,870	445,746	1,152,645
Total Liabilities	79,087	42,998	37,515	48,988	544,773
Total Net Assets	342,724	411,151	253,355	396,758	607,872

2010 – 2014 Revenue & Expense Summary

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Support and Revenue					
Membership Dues	532,494	482,622	458,288	456,082	492,324
Donations	240,508	288,594	281,015	189,628	467,697
Recurring Gifts	351,243	393,021	331,288	344,601	342,279
Board Solicitation Major Gifts	94,388	25,027	1,000	125	42,475
Convention Revenue	170,112	0	185,226	0	114,820
Project Program Revenue	5,000	130,035	-6,321	235,869	72,248
Brand & Promo Materials Rev	28,994	0	690	2,450	19,380
Ballot Access Donations	32,052	30,188	231,877	61,395	45,954
Publications Materials Other	24,427	7,900	1,645	1,000	7,959
Other Revenue & Offsets	2,871	1,523	142	23	1
Total Support and Revenue	1,482,088	1,358,911	1,484,850	1,291,173	1,605,137
Cost of Support and Revenue					
Fundraising Costs	126,335	147,122	165,265	116,486	125,461
Membership Fundraising Costs	121,165	155,965	76,355	101,057	108,366
Convention	102,896	0	161,912	0	120,936
Ballot Access Other Project					
Fundraising	4,283	2,937	16,825	56,116	8,831
Building Fundraising Exp					5,945
Total Cost of Support and Revenue	354,678	306,024	420,357	273,659	369,539
Net Support Available for Programs	1,127,410	1,052,887	1,064,493	1,017,514	1,235,598
Program Expense					
Administrative Costs	356,133	365,257	362,256	342,204	278,735
Compensation	375,988	412,239	399,518	461,390	530,864
Affiliate Support	0	3,867	4,816	5,404	4,883
Brand & Promo Materials Exp	51,879	5,191	2,748	2,408	12,578
Campus Outreach	60	0	0	1,000	0
Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives	25,048	50,000	4,464	0	289
Ballot Access Petitioning Related Exp	128,904	72,452	382,461	16,262	106,696
Litigation	0	12,882	23,259	6,979	11,047
Media	1,250	0	0	30	119
Member Communication & Materials	34,016	36,992	38,452	24,670	60,394
Outreach	8,392	21,285	4,315	6,979	6,098
Project Program Other	0	4,294	0	6,785	2,500
Total Program Expense	981,671	984,459	1,222,289	874,111	1,014,203
Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)	145,739	68,427	-157,796	143,403	221,394



...continued from page 8

In December 2014, the LNC adopted a budget for 2015 based on \$1,291,300 in estimated revenue. (Please note, budgets are often amended during the year based on changing conditions.)

\$250,000 Bequest From Joseph Shaber

In 2014, one of our long-time members, Joseph Shaber of Arizona, passed away. Mr. Shaber named the Libertarian Party in his will. The Libertarian Party received an estimate that the total bequest will be \$250,000 once all the expenses of the estate are covered. It's possible this amount will be adjusted later, with a recent estimate being \$224,400.

The \$250,000 figure has been counted as 2014 revenue per the instruction of the LNC's Audit Committee Chair since we do our accounting on an accrual basis. However because of Federal Election Commission limitations, the LNC will actually receive the bequest in disbursements over seven years. We have engaged attorney Alan Gura to sue the FEC on free speech grounds for the right to accept the entire amount of the bequest right away.

Gura was the lead attorney in the famous *D.C. v. Heller* case that led to the landmark 2008 Supreme Court decision affirming Second Amendment rights.

The Libertarian Party is grateful to Joseph Shaber for his decades of membership in our party, and for his generous choice to include the Libertarian Party in his will.

Remembering the Libertarian Party in Your Will

You can leave a legacy of liberty by remembering the Libertarian Party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, please contact Robert Kraus, operations director, at 202-333-0008 x231 or Robert.Kraus@LP.org.

You don't have to contact the Libertarian Party if you don't wish to. You can simply use the information below to name the Libertarian Party as a beneficiary:

Beneficiary name: Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Address: 1444 Duke St., Alexandria, VA, 22314.

Tax ID number: 52-1170810

There is no maximum limit to what a donor may leave the Libertarian Party in a will.

Membership

Our dues-paying membership count dropped from 14,637 in December 2013 to 12,800 in December 2014. That drop is alarming and has our attention.

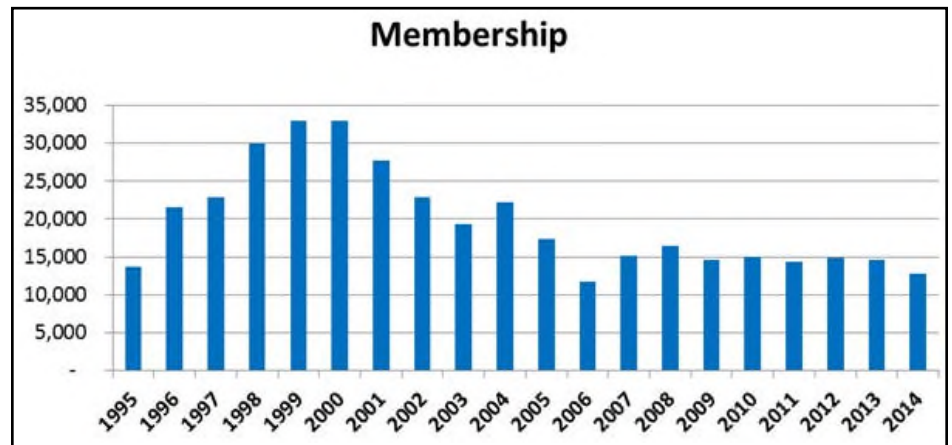
We've studied the issue and received feedback from expired members, but haven't found a single dominant reason for the drop in membership. Responses range from "I no longer vote," to "I can't afford it," to "I'm supporting other parties or efforts."

We've engaged the help of a telemarketing firm to call expired members to ask

them to renew. We also hope to take steps like getting a new website to do a better job of attracting new members. We'd also like to send prospecting letters to the donor lists of other organizations, but that depends upon having the revenue available for that type of investment.

In the meantime, you can help, both by keeping your own membership current, and by encouraging other Libertarians and prospective Libertarians to join the LP and renew regularly.

This chart shows LP membership from 1995 to 2014:



Going forward in 2015 and 2016

In September of 2014, the Libertarian National Committee adopted the following six goals:

1. Run 1,000 candidates in 2016.
2. Take action to see that each state has an operational affiliate by June 1, 2015.
3. Train 300 candidates in "Who's Driving" or an equivalent by 2016.
4. Update issue-based outreach literature.
5. Attain 38-state, party-status ballot access as of Dec. 1, 2016.
6. Achieve 200 elected Libertarian officials in December 2016.

Those are ambitious goals, and I need your help to achieve them.

We lost two employees last year, but I hope to replace them soon. We'll have to replace them if we want to achieve the goals listed above.

Our staff of six does its best to support 50 state affiliates in addition to local affiliates, 700+ candidates, and 13,000 members. I want to emphasize how much I personally appreciate the hard work that our staff members devote to the Libertarian Party.

Our party is owned by our members. Our staff is here to serve you. If you have comments, please let us know, and please show us your support by donating to the LP.

Almost all of our revenue comes from individual donors like you. Your support allows us to staff our headquarters, maintain our website, petition for ballot access, reach out to the press and the public, and keep you informed about what Libertarians are getting done throughout the United States.

I want to thank all of our 2014 donors, candidates, party officials, and other volunteers.

Our results in 2014 were relatively strong, except in the area of membership. I need your donation to help get us growing again.

Yours in liberty,

Wes Benedict

Wes Benedict, Executive Director

P.S. — Please donate online at LP.org, call 800-Elect-Us, or enclose a check made out to "Libertarian Party" in the enclosed envelope.

Founding meeting of IALP held in Bournemouth, UK

Representatives of Libertarian Parties from around the world gathered in Bournemouth, England on March 6 to sign the Declaration and Constitution of the Foundation of the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties (IALP).

Participants approved the IALP charter during the meeting.

The parties that sent representatives in person were: Libertarian Party United Kingdom (host), Libertarian Party (United States), Partido Libertario (Spain), Liberatarische Partij (Netherlands), Libertarian Party (France), Unabhängigkeitspartei Up! Schweiz (Switzerland), Libertarian Party (Belgium), Partei der Vernunft (Germany), Libertarian Party of the Czech Republic, and Partie Libertarianska (Poland).

Representatives for the Libertarian Party of Russia and the Libertarian Party

of South Africa attended electronically.

Liberisti Ticinesi (Switzerland) and Movimento Libertario (Italy) ratified the charter prior to the meeting and are considered founding members.

Former LNC Chair Geoffrey J. Neale represented the U.S. Libertarian Party.

The Purposes of the International Alliance of Libertarian Parties are:

- to establish, maintain and promote a collaborative network of independent libertarian political parties from around the globe;
- to foster and facilitate the sharing of political strategies, tactics, experiences and best practices among its members; and
- to establish, maintain and promote libertarian political perspectives and solutions as a global brand.

• **Online:** fb.com/IALibertarianParties/



Representatives of Libertarian Parties from the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, The Netherlands, and Poland met in Bournemouth, UK, for the founding of IALP.

Highlights of March Libertarian National Committee meeting

By Alicia Mattson

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) met March 28–29 in Phoenix, Ariz.

The LNC made its appointments to three committees for the 2016 national convention.

Those appointed to the Bylaws and Rules Committee are: Sam Goldstein, Dan Karlan, Chuck Moulton, Alicia Mattson, Rich Tomasso, Joshua Katz, Aaron Starr, Dan Wiener, Jeff Orrok, and M Carling. Matt

Wittlief was appointed as first alternate. The Bylaws and Rules Committee members subsequently chose M Carling as their chair.

Those appointed by the LNC to the Credentials Committee are: Vicki Kirkland, Gary Johnson, Mike Kane, Emily Salvette (interim chair), and Beth Duensing. Steve Linabary was appointed as first alternate.

Those appointed by the LNC to the Platform Committee are: Guy McLendon, Alicia Mattson (interim chair), Hollie Ryan, I. Dean Ahmad, and Lynn House. Ranked alternates were appointed: Mike Shipley (first), Andy LeCureaux (second), and Nick Frollini (third).

The LNC created an advisory Ballot Access Committee to supplement the hard work of our regular activists. The committee's key tasks are to collect, analyze, and report information, but the LNC still retains decision mak-



Libertarian National Committee officers and representatives met in Phoenix, Ariz., March 28–29.

ing power regarding expenditures. Appointed to the committee were Bill Redpath (chair), Ed Marsh, Jay Estrada, Paul Frankel, and Richard Winger.

The committee previously appointed to solicit new logo designs showed the LNC many options. The LNC narrowed the field to eight contenders including our current logo, but further consideration was postponed to an electronic meeting scheduled for May 3.

Doug Craig was selected to fill an at-large vacancy on the LNC, due to the resignation of Evan McMahon for health reasons.

The LNC voted to encumber up to \$2,500 to assist the Libertarian Party of Alabama in achieving ballot access in Jefferson County.

The next in-person meeting of the LNC will take place on July 18–19 in Alexandria, Va.

Libertarian Mark Fish

...continued from page 1

The Clift/Lee ticket also qualified the LP as a recognized party by winning over three percent of the vote.

Lawmakers are expected to appoint a second Libertarian to APOC in 2016.

"It's nice to see Libertarians playing a vital role in the fairness of future elections," said Fish.

After several delays, Fish was finally confirmed on April 18, the last day allowed under the law.

His confirmation was challenged in the house state affairs committee by Democratic Representative Max Gruenberg, the same representative who submits legislation every session that would effectively eliminate ballot access for parties other than Democrats and Republicans.

Due to a misinterpretation of the statute, there was also confusion over who was actually nominated for the specific seat being vacated. Two appointments were made when only one was being vacated. In addition, some lawmakers expressed discontent with the commission during the confirmation.

In the end, lawmakers unanimously voted to confirm Fish in a joint legislative session.

Both Mark Fish and Carolyn Clift made their mark in Alaskan politics. In addition to winning appointments on APOC and party status for the LP, they were in highly contested races in 2014 where they each pulled more votes than the margin between the two leading candidates. Fish won 8,358 votes, just over the margin of 8,149 in the senate race. Clift won 6,745 votes, more than double the 3,165 margin in the governor's race.

The case for electoral politics

By Justin Raimondo

This abridged version of a Nov. 3, 2014, column by Justin Raimondo is reprinted with permission from antiwar.com. It applies to all Libertarian issues, not just war.

Why participate in electoral politics?

This is a question I'm often asked by antiwar activists of all stripes, and especially by young people who wonder why they should bother with a process that oftentimes seems rigged from the get-go.

The mere fact of running or being involved in an election campaign can have a powerful ripple effect.

It's a definite understatement to say most Americans aren't ideologues, and don't think about politics a great deal: if and when they do consider the subject, it's usually because Election Day is approaching. The great majority are too busy with the details of day-to-day living to consider the pressing issues of the day, but a window opens up around this time — a brief moment when political issues, including foreign policy issues, become a subject of discussion around the dinner table.

What this means is that the days and weeks preceding Election Day are the one time when a good many Americans are open to considering the price they pay for Empire.

Even in an era or a locality where the chances of victory are small to nearly nonexistent, electoral politics can have a powerful impact as an educational device — a way to reach great numbers of people who would be otherwise inaccessible. I can't even begin to count the number of times I've heard people say to me: "I was watching the Republican presidential debate and listening to Ron Paul go up against Rudy Giuliani and I suddenly realized 'Hey, he's right!'"

Which is kind of funny, since the Conventional Wisdom — as perceived by our all-knowing pundits — was that Giuliani won that debate, and Paul was finished, vanquished, over. It took a while for the reality to sink in, as events in Iraq progressed, that Paul was absolutely right: many people remembered that moment, and were won over in retrospect. So the fruits of a persistent educational effort aren't always apparent at the beginning: the Ron Paul Effect, so to speak, was cumulative. So much of politics is sheer repetition, after all, and by the time Paul ran for the GOP nomination a second time the

message had finally begun to sink in. It just took a while.

Dismantling the Empire is not a task for the impatient. It took over a century for the American people to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the center of the international arena: decades of constant propaganda, much of it emanating from abroad — and from the financial centers in New York, New England, and Washington — before the natural "isolationism" (i.e. common sense) of the American people was overcome. It will take some time to undo all that — but it can be done.

Electoral politics is a key part of how it will and must be done. That's because people make policy. The only way to change the policy is to replace the people making it, and the only way to do that in this country is through the electoral process.

Of course we shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that if only we elect the "right" people, everything will automatically fall into place from the day after Election Day. That will only mark the beginning of our fight.

An entire stratum of the population lives off of the policy of imperialism: the military contractors, and all those who make their living either directly or indirectly due to the depth and breadth of America's footprint in the world. And of course there is an entire class of politicians who have made appeasing the war god a lifelong career, and quite a profitable one at that.

These people have a vested economic and psychological interest in maintaining and expanding the Empire. What's more, they are well-organized, vocal, and very well-funded: since their economic survival and social status is dependent on our foreign policy of perpetual war, they are highly motivated to keep the war wagon rolling and you'd better believe they are pushing it as hard as they can. It's really all about public choice theory: those who reap benefits from a given government program, usually a tiny minority, expend enormous amounts of energy protecting "their" piece of the pie.

On the other hand, most ordinary people — non-beneficiaries — are usually indifferent to and/or entirely ignorant of whatever government program is at issue. During an election, however, matters not directly impinging on their circumscribed world enter the popular consciousness — and that is our cue, our chance to make an impression and win hearts and minds.

We would be foolish not to take it.

Two new campaign guides for LP candidates, activists

16 Common Mistakes of Libertarian Campaigns

"Excellent collection of campaign advice" — *John Buckley, former Virginia state legislator and 2014 Libertarian for U.S. Senate in West Virginia*

"Really great material."

— *Ruth Bennett, elected School Board member in Arizona and 2002 Libertarian candidate for governor in Washington*

Game-Changing Libertarian Communications

"This is a nugget of gold. Thank you! I really enjoyed it and have shared it with other LP candidates here."

— *Chris Holbrook, 2014 LP Minnesota candidate for governor*

"Wow! Thank you. Your message gives me more hope! I want to help with the bigger picture, I want to help make positive change!"

— *Michael Scott, 2014 LP Washington candidate for state House*

"Excellent. Much good information which I plan to follow."

— *Leo Martin, 2014 LP Maryland candidate for Garrett County commissioner*

"Very enlightening!"

— *John Krom, 2014 LP Indiana candidate for U.S. House*

To get your copy of either of these guides, visit LP.org/guide

How to identify benefits to everyday voters of your Libertarian solution for less government

From "Game-Changing Libertarian Communications," by Carla Howell

To make the case for a Libertarian solution to reduce or eliminate some area of government, we must point out the damage that it does. But that's just a starting point. We must also expand on the positive effects of less government.

To persuade everyday voters that a Libertarian solution for less government will benefit them, you must distinguish the benefits they will get — from their point of view — if the solution is implemented.

How do you identify these benefits? All it takes is a bit of reverse engineering.

Whatever government makes worse, shrinking it and expanding liberty will make better.

For example, because the War on Drugs increases crime, ending the War on Drugs will allow crime to go down.

Now expand on the benefit in positive terms that speak to voters' concerns: "Ending the War on Drugs will allow crime to go down, making our communities safe."

More examples:

- Because foreign meddling increases the risk of a terrorist attack, "A non-interventionist policy will reduce the risk of terrorist attacks and make our country safer."
- Because regulations drive up the cost of doing business and force small businesses to lay off employees, "Removing government regulations will drive down the cost of doing business and allow small businesses to hire. This will create desperately needed new jobs."
- Because deficit spending and inflation devalues the dollar and raises the cost of living, "Balancing the budget and ending inflation will sustain the dollar's value, stabilize the cost of living,

and make retirement more secure for seniors."

Many Big Government programs create multiple problems. For each of these negative outcomes, there's a benefit to be derived by reducing or removing the program.

For example, the federal income tax:

- Takes an average of \$11,525 from every American household. This hurts workers' ability to take care of their families, make charitable donations to those in need, save for their retirement, and support the arts.
- Diverts money from the productive private sector, reducing the number of available jobs.
- Makes more people dependent on government welfare.
- Enriches the bloated, wasteful and dysfunctional government sector.
- Discourages productivity.
- Imposes accounting mandates that cost Americans over \$300 billion every year.
- Subjects people to dreaded, intrusive IRS audits.
- Gives politicians the power to intimidate political enemies.

Try it yourself: What positive benefits for voters from ending the federal income tax can you derive from these negative outcomes caused by the income tax?

For every Libertarian solution that you talk about, brainstorm all the ways in which government is now causing damage. Then for each of these harmful outcomes, derive the benefit(s) that removing or reducing government will enable and put them in positive terms that appeal to the concerns of everyday voters.

You'll soon see that Libertarian solutions offer voters a wealth of attractive benefits.

Progress, setbacks for Libertarian Party ballot access

By Carla Howell

The LP has seen both ballot access gains and losses this year, and some related improvements, such as the repeal of straight-ticket voting in West Virginia.

Here are some developments that have taken place as of this writing in 2015:

Alabama: A bill has passed the Senate committee to lower the petitioning requirement for new parties from 3 percent of the last gubernatorial vote to 1.5 percent for federal and state offices. It also allows more time to collect signatures. This would significantly improve ballot access in a state with some of the nation's toughest ballot access laws. It remains to be seen if it will be brought up on the senate floor.

Arizona: A bill was enacted that will significantly increase the number of signatures a Libertarian candidate needs to make the ballot. For a U.S. Senate candidate in 2016, the signature requirement has risen from 139 signatures to 2,987 signatures.

Arkansas: The Libertarian National Committee has voted to contribute \$26,000 towards a petition drive that began in March to collect 10,000 signatures within 90 days. If successful, all LP candidates, including the presidential nominee, will be on the ballot in 2016.

California: The California Assembly Elections Committee passed A.B. 372, which would require a filing fee for write-in candidates equal to 2 percent of the annual salary for statewide office, and 1 percent for district office.

Write-in campaigns are important in the state because of its top-two law. If a seat appears uncontested in the primary, as many do, a candidate can win a spot on the November ballot with a write-in campaign, as did Libertarian Patrick Hogan in 2014.

The lawsuit *Rubin v. Padilla*, which charges that California's top-two system injures the rights of alternative party voters, is pending in the State Supreme Court. The Libertarian, Green, and Peace & Free-

dom parties have filed a reply brief.

Florida: A ballot initiative to install top-two primaries has begun in Florida. It is not yet known who's behind the initiative and whether they are likely to raise sufficient funds to make the ballot.

Georgia: Libertarian Amanda Swafford organized a "Crossover Day" in March in support of H.B. 58 to mitigate the nation's toughest ballot access laws for candidates running for legislature or U.S. House. The bill did not get out of committee. It will remain filed and ready to go in 2016 without the need to obtain sponsors. However, it must pass by the end of the 2016 session or the entire process must begin again, which she believes is unlikely to be viable.

Swafford is working to raise funds for professional lobbyists to get it passed in the short January-through-March legislative session of 2016.

Maine: The LP has begun a voter registration drive. If it registers 5,000 voters by December of 2015, it will become an officially recognized political party in Maine, which would give the party ballot access.

Montana: Montana passed S.B. 289, the so-called "dark money" bill, ostensibly aimed at making campaign donations more transparent. In reality it is potentially damaging to Libertarian campaigns because it imposes arduous campaign finance reports on trivial events, such as sending an email to 100 or more recipients.

The good news is that the legislature made no attempt to pass "top two" this year.

Nevada: A top-two threat was averted in Nevada. The Senate Legislative Operations & Elections Committee heard testimony on S.B. 499, which would have established a top-two primary in the state. Republicans, Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*, and others testified against it. Only one witness testified in its favor. It was amended and is no longer top-two.

New Hampshire: The Republican National Committee has weighed in against Libertarians' appeal of a new ballot access law that prohibits petitioning before Jan. 1

of the election year. Because of the difficulty that petitioning presents in the state, it is essential to have the prior year to petition. The only two times that the LP successfully completed the party petition (2000 and 2012) was when it started the prior year.

The fact that the *national* GOP is weighing in could be indicative of plans to interfere with other Libertarian ballot access efforts in 2016.

North Dakota: North Dakota has not had an alternative party candidate on the general election ballot for state legislature since 1976 because of a requirement that 12 percent of voters must choose the party's ballot in the primary for the candidate to be deemed nominated. In February, a House bill to eliminate this requirement lost 37-55.

Oklahoma: In March, the Oklahoma House passed H.B. 2181 in a 90-0 vote to dramatically reduce the number of signatures needed for newly-qualifying parties from 5 percent of the last vote cast to 1 percent. It was endorsed by *The Oklahoman*, the largest newspaper in the state. The bill's sponsor, Jeffrey Hickman, is the House speaker.

The Senate passed the bill 37-4, but amended it to set the percentage to 3 percent rather than 1 percent. If passed, it would improve ballot access, but Oklahoma's would still be among the toughest presidential ballot access laws in the country.

South Dakota: Republican lawmakers passed a law in March that moves up an already very early deadline for party petitions from the end of March to the beginning of March. The ACLU national voting rights office has agreed to sue the state over the new deadline.

Texas: In April, the Texas House Elections Committee passed H.B. 464, a Republican-sponsored bill which would require all minor party nominees to pay fees to appear on the November election ballot. The fees range as high as \$5,000, depending on the office.

Traditionally, filing fees have only been required for Texas candidates running in partisan primaries, i.e., Democrats and Re-

publicans, to help administer the primaries.

Virginia: The two ballot access bills in the Virginia General Assembly that would have improved ballot access died in committee.

H.B. 1463 would have granted political party status to any political party that polled at least 4 percent of the vote for a statewide office, in either of the last two statewide elections. The percentage is currently 10 percent, the second highest among all states.

S.B. 766 would have reduced the number of signatures for a petition for statewide office from 10,000 signatures to 5,000 and would have also relaxed a distribution requirement.

West Virginia: In March, West Virginia lawmakers repealed the state's straight-ticket law.

A straight-ticket device lets voters cast a vote for all the nominees of one party with a single mark on the ballot. This gives Democratic and Republican candidates an overwhelming advantage because they're the only parties that can use the device and because it greatly increases the chances that voters won't even notice Libertarians who are on the ballot.

Straight-ticket laws in most states have been repealed. Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah still have the device.

Presidential ballot status: The Libertarian Party already has ballot access in 30 states, the most of any alternative party, for its 2016 presidential ticket: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The Green Party is on the ballot in 21 states, and the Constitution Party is on the ballot in 13 states.

Richard Winger, Bill Redpath, and Bob Johnston contributed to this article.

LP campaigns rewarding

...continued from page 6

- Got ballot status for the party.
- The ratio of dollars I spent to the votes I received.
- Contributed to a notable national vote total for Libertarians.
- Held great press-worthy fundraisers.
- Worked events almost every weekend and 2-3 times

each week.

- Raised my public profile dramatically.
- Recruiting 30+ local candidates.
- Membership is up.
- Worked as hard as I could.
- I am deaf; the idea of speaking on radio and TV was intimidating, but I kicked #*\$!
- I came from nowhere and now people are coming to me for answers.

Thinking of running for office? Just want to learn more?

Go to **LP.org/run-for-office**

and send us your inquiry. You'll receive information from your state LP affiliate or from the national LP headquarters that you need to get started, file your campaign, comply with your state's election laws, and get on the ballot.

AFFILIATE News And Events

Affiliate news and events are provided to LP News by Libertarian Party state affiliates.

Connecticut

Aiming to run slates for elected boards

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut is planning its annual convention for Sept. 19 at the Holiday Inn in East Hartford. The convention will feature, besides the business meeting, a variety of speakers. Elected Libertarians will speak on political strategy, and presidential candidates will be invited to participate in a panel and debate. The keynote speaker will be Belle Knox, a well-known adult-film actress and Duke student who is a prominent speaker on free speech and sex workers' rights.

The LPCT has received a large number of inquiries from candidates seeking to run for office, either in 2015 or 2016, and welcomes more, particularly from those seeking municipal office in 2015. We are hoping to run slates for elected boards, particularly land-use boards, in as many of our 169 towns as possible.

In the current legislative session, LPCT chair Joshua Katz drafted legislation to ease ballot access requirements and to establish a more fair method of party registration. Both bills were introduced by Rep. Devin Carney and currently remain in committee.

Katz has also recently published several op-eds in major newspapers. Serving as party spokesman, Katz has written in defense of homeschooling following the Sandy Hook report, which demonized homeschooling, and on a few other topics of state and national interest. His pieces were picked up by several newspapers with wide distribution.

Florida

Sullivan elected to Frostproof City Council

At a crowded Polk County town hall meeting on election-eve Monday April 6, Frostproof Council rejected the will of the people, paving the way for an unprecedented Libertarian win.

"It was the perfect storm," said Martin Sullivan, lifelong Frostproof resident and one of two new members of the five-

member council. "The people came out and they chose the Libertarian."

The night before Sullivan won, concerned citizens gathered in opposition to the council's plan to give control of the city fire department to Polk County, he said. "The majority of the people were willing to keep the fire department and many gave heartfelt testimony in support of keeping it."

When residents asked the city council to put on hold their decision to sell until after the election the following day, he said the council ignored their pleas and, in a four-to-one vote, supported the fire department sale.

"Some people walked out," said the self-employed citrus grower. "That frustration showed in the polls." With a record turnout of more than 400 people, Sullivan won in a landslide with 67.2 percent of the vote.

"Everyone was blown away by the election results," said Sullivan, who is a University of Central Florida graduate. "It was overwhelming." He said he was a disgruntled voter who saw a small rural town not just stagnating, but in decline.

"I was energized by Adrian Wyllie for governor sign-wavers last year," he said. "Without them I would still be lost." The Libertarian Party is the third largest political party in the state, with the fastest-growing voter registration.

He said that as council member he will do everything he can to see where Frostproof can gain leverage and control over its own governance. "The council has failed to address the real issue." State regulations and mandates are burdening small towns, Sullivan said.

"With Libertarian-type solutions, Martin got people organized," said Russ

Wood, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Polk County. "He became involved with the local affiliate and volunteered for Adrian Wyllie's campaign."

Sullivan ran against Republican Diane Biehl, the one-term council member who was the "ringleader" of the fire department-Polk County deal, he said. "People are irritated that their small town is losing its identity." A vote for Sullivan was a vote for different, he said.

Joté Thompson, a Libertarian Party leader, said he was called in to help out with the Sullivan campaign and was optimistic from the start. "He met me in Frostproof at the Wyllie campaign; I was thrilled he was very enthusiastic."

The fire department transfer to Polk County will cost Frostproof \$400,000 a year, he said. "The sale increases costs substantially." Frostproof residents felt that the council was giving away their firehouse at an unaffordable cost, he said.

"I knew at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday that Sullivan would win in a landslide," he said. "It was like a revolution — everyone was giving us the thumbs-up."

Illinois

State convention July 31–Aug. 1

The month of April 2015 began with a bang. The Libertarian Party of Illinois ran a diverse group of candidates from around the state in various non-partisan races, from school boards to town trustees, and even a hotly contested community college board. Libertarian candidates not only won, but received multi-partisan support from Republicans, Democrats, local Tea Party groups, and even Constitution Party members.

David Pfeifer from the Lake County Libertarian Chapter won a seat on the Waukegan School Board and Kathy Kelley from Rockford won re-election as trustee

on the Rock Valley College Board. Additionally, Alan Hall, a long-time member of the Fox Valley Libertarian Chapter, was elected to the East Dundee Village Board.

Although not victorious, the following candidates also deserve recognition and thanks for their hard work and dedication carrying liberty's banner in their own respective races: Jasen Howard of New Lenox, Chris Hicks of Sawyerville, Aaron Merreighn of Riverton, Chris Russell of Fox River Grove, Brandon Damm of Springfield, Marcia Powell of Prairieview-Ogden, Steve Hellin of O'Fallon, and Claire Ball from DuPage County, who gained more than 10,000 votes in a 12-way race for a place on the board of trustees at the College of DuPage.

The College of DuPage has received increasing news coverage during the past several months for mismanagement and corruption allegations, which Claire used to popularize Libertarian realism and responsibility. With the support of her local chapter, she ran a very active campaign, garnering attention for the entire Libertarian movement in Illinois through interviews with media outlets like the *Illinois Herald* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Beyond these past elections, the Libertarian Party of Illinois is building an infrastructure of local activists to have ready in place once established party status is achieved according to Illinois election law. Recent growth in state membership and chapter development has been an asset. The state party also has plans to host a booth at the State Fair this year, while currently recruiting candidates to run for elected offices in 2016, including Mark Kirk's U.S. Senate seat.

We will plot the future of Libertarian success in Illinois, as well as celebrate our present successes at the Libertarian Party of Illinois state convention, July 31–Aug. 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, Ill. Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark will be the keynote speaker.

Expect big things from the Libertarian Party of Illinois as the year continues.

Iowa

Record attendance at state convention

The Libertarian Party of Iowa state convention was held on March 28 with a record attendance of 60 people. Special thanks to James Schneider and Myra Matejka for organizing the convention.

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LPIA Executive Council (left to right): Myra Matejka, Jules Ofenbakh, Jacob Bryan, Joshua Herbert, Chris Peters, Lynne Gentry, Joe Gleason, Jake Porter, Bill Steppan, Tim Hird, Lee Hieb, Keith Laube, James Schneider, and Ed Wright.



AFFILIATE News And Events

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The meeting started with District 1 Rep. James Schneider giving a presentation and discussion on how the state party may consider reorganizing its structure to be more effective and meet the needs of a growing membership.

Past LP candidate Hughie Tweedy of Lee County gave an inspirational speech about the fight he and our party are in against eminent domain for the proposed Bakken Pipeline across Iowa. It would cut through the land his family has owned and farmed for generations.

State Chair Keith Laube reported that the 2014 Libertarian candidates had active campaigns and reached many voters. This helped double the number of registered Libertarian Iowa voters in 2014. There are approximately 5,000 registered Libertarians in Iowa. The key to increasing voter registration and improving election results is continuous activism.

Campaigns and Elections Chair Chris Peters presented certificates of recognition to the 2014 candidates. Our late U.S. Senate candidate Dr. Doug Butzier garnered special recognition. An award will be given to candidates in future election years in honor of Doug. Chris noted the many Iowa Libertarian voting records that were broken last year.

Lee Hieb, 2014 gubernatorial candidate, gave an informative presentation regarding medical care in the United States and introduced her new book, *Surviving the Medical Meltdown*. The keynote speaker, Jan Mickelson of WHO 1040 AM radio, shared his political insights by comparing ancient Israel and Libertarians today.

Kansas

Local affiliate celebrates 30th anniversary

The Kansas LP State Convention was held April 17–19 in Salina, Kansas. We enjoyed having Wes Benedict as our main speaker. Benedict spoke on a number of topics, including fundraising and candidate recruitment — major issues for the LPKS.

At the convention we also elected all eight members of our Executive Committee, as well as voted on proposed new bylaws. It was a lively meeting. The con-

vention also featured a Friday night mixer at a local brew pub, a Saturday morning motorcycle ride for those who were interested, and Saturday night dinner at one of Salina's best steakhouses.

Congratulations go to one of our Wichita affiliates, Libertarians of South Central Kansas, affectionately known as the LSOCKs. In March, the LSOCKs celebrated the 30th anniversary of their Tuesday night supper meetings. The weekly supper meetings were begun in 1985 by the late Bill Earnest, former chair of the LPKS, and actually pre-date the formal organization of the LSOCKs. Wichita, Kansas — advancing liberty for 30 years!

Louisiana

11,000 registered Louisiana Libertarians

The LPL has the following Libertarian candidates: Thomas Clements for U.S. Senator, Jay Price for Louisiana State House of Representatives District 70, Jennifer “Hap” Werther for St. Tammany Parish Sheriff, and Jason France for Board of Elementary and Secondary Education member. They are actively campaigning, attending community events and political organization conferences. They have been in Libertarian news, mainstream news, and online radio podcast interviews that keep Libertarians in the media.

Other Libertarians in Louisiana are keeping us in various media. Bobby Hoyt wrote an opinion piece for the *Pelican Post*. Several other LPL members have been hosts and guests on podcasts. Jeffry Sanford and Sarah Stewart have guest-hosted, Sanford became a regular host of Old Dominion Libertarian Radio, and Jay Price has been a guest. Libertarians Chris Wallis, Kathryn Crappell, and Kyle Stelly are hosting “The Southern Gents” podcast, and Jennifer Frierson is writing an article for the website. Clayton Sanford (March 11), Jason France (Feb. 18), Beth Vest (Feb. 18), Jennifer “Hap” Werther (Feb. 11), Henry Herford (Feb. 11), Jay Price (Feb. 4), and Randall Lord (Jan. 14) have been guests on the Libertarian Party’s “Libertarians Working For You.” David Abadie hosts “The NOLA Report” and has video interviewed Jennifer “Hap” Werther. Abadie has also started co-hosting a radio show

Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on WGSO 990 AM.

The Baton Rouge area Libertarians have held Liberty Sessions with dinner and speakers on libertarian topics. The latest topics have been problems with prohibition in January, marriage equality in February, and marijuana decriminalization in April.

There have been several other lunches and after-meeting socials across Louisiana to bring Libertarians together. On Feb. 14, Libertarians across the state came to assist a Libertarian family whose barn burned down with animals inside. They helped clean up and build a temporary shelter for other animals. On March 3, Bossier and Caddo Parish Libertarians Sarah Stewart and Randall Lord supported International Sex Worker Rights Day. On March 18, Richard “Ricardo” Fast established College Libertarians at Loyola University New Orleans, affiliated with the LPL. Ascension Parish Executive Committee (PEC) hosted a 2nd Amendment Range Day on March 28 at Rufus Craig’s estate. On April 4, St. Tammany Libertarian PEC held an open house, advertised in the newspaper and invited the public to a dinner and speakers on libertarianism in daily life. On April 12, Libertarians at the Abita Springs Farmers Market in St. Tammany promoted food freedom. Noel Stevens, Mike Norman, and Daniel Hayes were promoting bills for the legalization of raw milk (S.B. 238) and making raw honey sales from home exempt from food labeling (H.B. 79).

The LPL is ready for the 2015 legislative session. On Jan. 26, Jennifer “Hap” Werther made a trip to the Capitol in Baton Rouge for a Louisiana Interim Emergency Board meeting that showed the state in debt by next year by \$1.6 billion. The LPL will advocate reducing government vice raising taxes. On April 13, LPL and St. Tammany Libertarian PEC member planned a trip to the capitol for the opening day of the legislative session. Lee Williams, Howard Kearney, Jason Lanier, Michael Dodd, Daniel Hayes, Wendy Adams, and Chuck Saucier talked to more than 20 representatives about liberty-related bills. They also had a very encouraging talk with Charlie Whinham, the Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) host of “Louisiana: The State We Are In,” about a lot of liberty issues, media access, polls access, debate access, and LPB’s keeping us out of debates in 2014. Later that day, there was a medical marijuana rally, where two of our LPL members, Thomas Clements and Wendy Adams, spoke about the bills that have been filed for medical marijuana, reducing penalties for use, and

decriminalization.

LPL members Lee Williams, Jo Ann Scott, Jenae Wise, Thomas Clements, Ronia Clements, Michael Dodd, Daniel Hayes, Wendy Adams, and Chuck Saucier attended the medical marijuana events and rally.

Massachusetts

Rebuilding Massachusetts LP website

Congratulations to Mike Coombes on being elected to Town Meeting (an elective non-partisan assembly). We expect to have more complete election news next time.

Our state convention is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, in Worcester, Mass. National Chair Nicholas Sarwark will be the keynote speaker. We expect to have a presidential candidate debate. Darryl Perry, Marc Feldman, and Cecil Ince have all accepted. We expect to invite other party activists when they announce that they are running for our party’s presidential nomination.

The Massachusetts State Committee is experiencing changes in membership. Libertarian Don Graham has been added to the State Committee and appointed as the IT facilitator. The state web pages have had some exotic difficulties and are being relocated.

We have a lot of local candidates who have at least some libertarian leanings, including some very-long-time members running for local office. Most local offices in Massachusetts are non-partisan, so many voters will not see obvious signs of our party.

A part of Massachusetts’s major political party (realistically we only have one major party here) has launched a campaign to bankrupt Boston by staging the Olympic Games in Boston. Our state party has an opportunity for an ad campaign to build our party: “Vote Nolympics! Vote Libertarian!”

As soon as state web pages are completely re-established, we will be launching a fund drive to support in-state political activity, and a targeted electronic fund drive to raise money for 2016 presidential ballot access.

Minnesota

Recruitment success at Ron Paul event

We’ve increasingly been taking stands on a diverse set of issues such as police accountability, fire codes, net neutrality, poverty, and the ongoing war in Iraq. We have been at the

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AFFILIATE NEWS AND EVENTS

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state capitol testifying in favor of putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2016 to protect Minnesotans' privacy to include electronic communication, and lobbying for favorable ballot access laws.

Our outreach efforts continue with visits to gun shows at the State Fairgrounds, the Prepper's Expo in Bloomington, the MayDay Festival in Powderhorn Park, and a rousing success with students at the Ron Paul event at the University of Minnesota. We were a co-sponsor and our booth was the most frequented, with a mass of people taking buttons and signing up with the party.

Locally, our Libertarian Crystal City Council is making headway. Amazingly, there are more lines of city code than actual people in the city. Because of that, they have created a City Code Review Task Force to eliminate anachronistic and freedom-infringing ordinances. In addition, they are pushing back on an eminent domain situation where a railroad is being granted federal authority to take private property which would pose traffic and livability issues within the city.

Looking forward, our focus will now turn to direct public outreach and the local elections. With our office located right in Minneapolis and by Lake Calhoun, we will be meeting people where they are and getting them connected with the party. We'll be using a similar approach to our petitioning effort last year where we obtained 13,000 signatures in just two weeks. Lastly, there are 26 municipalities holding elections in 2015. Thus far, we have a couple people willing to step up and we are working to recruit several more!

Montana

Fighting for privacy, school choice

Our main focus the last few months has been keeping track of the Montana legislative session. We have been to the capitol to speak for and against legislation. We have also sent some testimony.

Privacy is important to us in Montana. H.B. 344 banned the use of license plate scanners in Montana. We spoke in favor in the House Judiciary Committee. National publi-

cations like *Reason* and *The Blaze* mentioned us on the subject of banning these scanners. H.B. 344 passed the House but is currently bottled by in a Senate Committee. Other privacy bills we supported were H.B. 444 to require a search warrant for the government to look into your electronic communications. This bill also passed the House, only to fail in the Republican-controlled Senate. The Republican attorney general is fighting hard to defeat H.B. 444. This was our testimony in committee: "Dear chair and members of the Judiciary Committee, for the record my name is Mike Fellows, representing the Montana Libertarian Party. We rise to support H.B. 444. Privacy is important. Under the Fourth Amendment, government needs a warrant. Our platform says: Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records. We urge passage of H.B. 444. We would also support H.B. 445 and H.B. 443 for the same privacy and Fourth Amendment reasons. Thank you for your time on this issue."

Those in the legislature took an oath to defend and protect the Constitution.

School choice bills have also done well this session. We have supported these bills because parents and the children need options and, as we've said, if public schools are doing their jobs, what do they have to fear from school choice. H.B. 433 would give a tax credit of \$1,000 for education.

On the election front, we spoke out against S.B. 289, the governor's dark money bill. S.B. 289 requires more reporting by individuals who spend on campaigns and issues, and because of the electronic communication portion of S.B. 289, those on Facebook who have more than 100 likes, and advocate the defeat or support of a candidate or issue, may have to file, along with those 100 e-mails you sent out. The legislature continues to defeat the various term-limit proposals this session. There were no "top two" type bills this session.

On highways, we supported higher speed limits but not higher fines. We



LP Montana Chair Mike Fellows testifies before the state House Business & Labor Committee on March 17.

spoke against H.B. 549 in the Senate. H.B. 549 would have taken Motorcycles off the exempted list for insurance. H.B. 549 was tabled in committee.

One can never be sure that a bill will stay dead in committee. Thanks to our state chair Mike Fellows for making the trips from Missoula to Helena (a two-hour drive) on behalf of the Montana Libertarian Party.

The Missoula County Libertarian Party spoke at the local city council recently. They also had their twice monthly public access television program on tax day talking about the legislature, local issues, and taxes. The show is "Libertarians Live," but we call it "Other People's Pockets." The show airs on Missoula Community Access Television (MCAT) on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. It got its start way back in 1994. We hope to expand to other public access markets in the future. This year, MCAT celebrates 25 years serving Missoula.

Those wanting to get involved, just let us know. We hope to have our legislative list up soon of supported and opposed bills. The legislature is only in session for 90 days or until the legislature and the governor agree on a budget.

New Jersey

Working to advance marijuana freedom

The New Jersey Libertarian Party held its 2015 Convention in March in Hightstown, N.J. The event was very successful and well-attended. Our Board for 2015 will be:

- Chair — Patrick McKnight
- Vice Chair — Ken Kaplan
- Treasurer — Jay Edgar
- Secretary — Brian Pizza

The following candidates received the nomination of the NJLP:

- Kyler Dineen — Old Bridge Town Council
- Brian Pizza — Lacey Town Council

- Peter Rohrman — Bergen County Freeholder
- Dmitry Levitsky — Hudson County Freeholder
- James Marcotullio — Assembly 10th District
- Damien Caillault — Assembly 27th District

The NJLP is the fastest growing and third-largest political party in New Jersey. In 2014, we received more than 26,000 votes statewide. Our registered voters increased by 8.3 percent while the Republicans shrank by 1.1 percent and the Democrats shrank by 1.6 percent.

We have endorsed NJ United for Marijuana Reform, which is a coalition of groups proposing the legalization of marijuana in New Jersey. We are also leading a ballot initiative in New Brunswick to make marijuana the lowest enforcement priority for its police force.

We are looking forward to continued growth in 2015!

North Carolina

'Resolve for Liberty in 2015'

The outcome of the 2015 Libertarian Party of North Carolina Convention, April 10–12, was a clear and overwhelming decision by the attendees to "Resolve for Liberty in 2015."

The convention delayed reconvening Sunday to watch part of C-SPAN's interview of Libertarian Party Chair Nicholas Sarwark. The response was a grand-slam, out-of-the-ballpark home run. The previous day, Sarwark had inspired delegates with his talk on the key to electoral success, "Show Up. Be Nice. Win."

"The combination of that interview, Nick's keynote speech, and the dynamic presentation of our banquet speaker, political analyst John Davis, was palpable," said Brad

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2016 LP Presidential Nominating Convention

May 27–30 (Memorial Day weekend)
Orlando, Florida



LP National Chair Nicholas Sarwark tells delegates to the 2015 LPNC convention the key to electoral success is to "Show up, be nice, and win."

Affiliate News

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Hessel, LPNC executive director.

Many delegates present Sunday spontaneously upped their financial pledge, several were inspired to run for at-large seats on the executive committee, and one announced his decision to run for the state House in 2016.

The new executive committee is: Chair J.J. Summerell, Vice Chair Brian Irving, Treasurer Alex Vuchnich, and Secretary Windy McKinney.

At-large members are: Timothy Lee Cole, Chris Dooley, Jessica Leigh Dunlap, Tom Hohman, Lonnie Holcomb, Jeremy Hussey, Brian Lewis, Ken Penkowski, and

Erik Raudsep.

Delegates also passed a resolution calling on Gov. Pat McCrory to pardon Todd Stimson, a medical marijuana dealer recently convicted of trafficking and sentenced to up to 39 months in prison.

The resolution notes Stimson "is a peaceful, honest family man, and has helped many in North Carolina and victimized no one" and "no public safety interest is met by sending peaceful, honest people to prison."

Stimson was arrested despite the fact that he's paid for a business privilege license for the art of healing, has articles of incorporation from the state explaining his business and its educational and scientific goals, and has paid for tax stamps on the plants.

What have you missed recently on LP.org?

- Libertarian National Committee Chair Nicholas Sarwark says murder charge against Walter Scott's killer is only first step
- Libertarian Party endorses Surveillance State Repeal Act
- Republican tax plan leaves federal tax burden dangerously high
- Sputnik features Chair Nicholas Sarwark's comments on Clinton Foundation
- LNC and LPNC Chairs on Capital Tonight TV news show
- Former Republican-turned-Libertarian elected to school board in Illinois
- Neither Big Government Party Cracks 40% Favorability in Latest Poll
- Gary Johnson at CPAC
- Take the poll: Which politicians do you consider to be Big Government?
- LPIA elected official forces conversation on de-prioritizing marijuana
- Texas Republican attacks Libertarian voting rights

Media Buzz About the Libertarian Party

"Agree or disagree with its positions, the Libertarian Party has a real impact on the American political environment. Each vote matters far beyond the simple math."
IVN in article "Even in Third Place, Libertarian Party Has Significant Impact in Elections," 3/31/15

"Liberty is supposed to be a founding ideology of the republic. So on some level, Americans are all presumed to be libertarians."
Newsday, 4/7/15

"Just weeks before announcing his 2016 presidential bid, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul is completing an about-face on a longstanding pledge to curb the growth in defense spending.

"In an olive branch to defense hawks hell-bent on curtailing his White House ambitions, the libertarian Senator introduced a budget amendment late Wednesday calling for a nearly \$190 billion infusion to the defense budget over the next two years—a roughly 16 percent increase."
Time, 3/26/15

"At the federal level, many had high hopes for change under Obama. "However, we have launched more bombing campaigns in the Middle East, we still have mass domestic surveillance and other civil liberties violations, we passed a misguided financial-industry reform package (Dodd-Frank) that doubled down on implicit subsidies to "too-big-to-fail" banks, and we have a monstrosity of a healthcare law that might as well have been written by drug and insurance companies."
Libertarian Rob Sarvis op-ed in Collegiate Times, 3/31/15

"In Republican primary politics, the libertarian brand carries cachet, which explains why many of the GOP's presidential candidates are battling to position themselves as the one true standard-bearer of small government conservatism. But a funny thing is happening on the way to the Republican primaries: The whole notion of small government libertarianism has been hijacked by politicians who often represent the opposite."
Salon, 4/17/15